

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Listing of Claims

The following listing of claims replaces all previous listings or versions thereof:

1. (Currently amended) A decoy oligonucleotide comprising the nucleic acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 17 and SEQ ID NO:18, said decoy oligonucleotide having a length up to approximately 30 bases.
2. (Previously presented) The decoy oligonucleotide according to claim 1, wherein said oligonucleotide is formulated as a pharmaceutical agent.
3. (Currently amended) A method for ~~the inhibition of treating~~ atherosclerosis, coronary heart disease, cardiac infarction, heart failure, cerebral circulatory disorders, stroke and multi-infarction dementia, peripheral arterial occlusion disease, chronic inflammatory and autoimmune diseases, rheumatoid arthritis (~~chronic polyarthritis~~), psoriasis including psoriasis arthritis, chronic inflammatory diseases, Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, diabetes type I and II, diabetic nephropathy, retinopathy and vasculopathy, multiple sclerosis, sarcoidosis, collagenoses and vasculitis including glomerulonephritis, acute and chronic rejection of transplanted organs, graft-versus-host disease (GVHD), ischaemia/reperfusion damage of organs following a surgical intervention, ~~or~~ vasculopathy of venous bypasses, (pre)eclampsia and pregnancy-induced hypertension, arterial hypertension, left cardiac hypertrophy, formation of aneurysms with the risk of mass haemorrhages and vascular wall transformation, pulmonary hypertension, chronic renal insufficiency, chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases (COPD), bacterial infections, helicobacter pylori gastritis, tubercular pericarditis, Lyme borreliosis with subsequent borrelia arthritis and neuroborreliosis, and post-infection complications after infections with cytomegaly, hepatitis B and C, herpes and HI (human immunodeficiency) viruses such as portal hypertension, fibrosis or opportunistic infection such as pneumocystis carinii pneumonia, comprising

administering to a subject in need thereof a decoy oligonucleotide comprising the nucleic acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 17 and SEQ ID NO:18.

4-10. (Canceled)